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Agenda item 96

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Report of the Second Committee (Part I)*

Rapporteur: Ms. Silvia Cristina CORADO-CUEVAS (Guatemala)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1996, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled:

"Sustainable development and international economic cooperation:

"(a) Implementation and follow-up to major consensus agreements on development:

"(i) Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of the Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries;

"(ii) Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade;

"(b) Agenda for development:

"(i) Agenda for development;

"(ii) Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership;

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/51/604 and addenda.

"(c) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy;

"(d) Population and development;

"(e) Human settlements;

"(f) Eradication of poverty;

"(g) Cultural development."

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee held a general discussion on the item at its 17th, 18th, and 20th to 27th meetings, from 28 to 31 October and on 1, 4 and 6 November 1996. An account of the Committee's general discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/51/SR.17, 18 and 20-27). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 8th meetings, from 14 to 18 October 1996 (see A/C.2/51/SR.3-8). An account of the Committee's further consideration of the item will be given in addenda to the present report as follows:

Sub-item	Addendum
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(h)	8
Questions not relating to specific sub-items	9

3. For the consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on communication for development programmes in the United Nations system (A/51/314);

(b) Letter dated 18 January 1996 from the Permanent Representatives of the Islamic of Iran and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Joint Russian-Iranian Statement on the Caspian Sea, issued at Tehran on 30 October 1995 (A/51/59);

(c) Letter dated 21 February 1996 from the Permanent Representatives of the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a joint statement on the results of talks concerning the problems affecting the Caspian Sea (A/51/73);

(d) Letter dated 20 March 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Trujillo Act and the Protocol Amending the Cartagena Agreement (A/51/87);

(e) Letter dated 19 April 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a letter dated 19 April 1996 from the Chairmen/Coordinators of the Group of Least Developed Countries, the Group of Land-locked Developing Countries and the Alliance of Small Island States addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/120);

(f) Letter dated 2 May 1996 from the Permanent Representatives of China and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Russian-Chinese Joint Statement adopted in Beijing on 25 April 1996 (A/51/127);

(g) Letter dated 16 May 1996 from the representatives of Kazakstan and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Joint Russian-Kazak (Almaty) Declaration and the Joint Statement on Cooperation in the Use of the Caspian Sea adopted on 27 April 1996 (A/51/138);

(h) Letter dated 5 July 1996 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final documents of the summit meeting of seven major industrialized countries, held at Lyon, France, from 27 to 29 June 1996 (A/51/208-S/1996/543);

(i) Letter dated 28 May 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the results of the 95th Conference and related meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held at Istanbul, Turkey, from 15 to 20 April 1996 (A/51/210);

(j) Letter dated 12 August 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué issued at the conclusion of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community held at Bridgetown from 3 to 6 July 1996 (A/51/295);

(k) Letter dated 12 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Forum Communiqué adopted by the twenty-seventh South Pacific Forum, held at Majuro, Marshall Islands, from 3 to 5 September 1996 (A/51/357);

(l) Letter dated 13 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration of the Tenth Summit of Heads of States and Government of the Rio Group, held at Cochabamba, Bolivia, on 3 and 4 September 1996 (A/51/375);

(m) Letter dated 30 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, adopted in New York on

24 September 1996 on the occasion of the celebration of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Movement (A/51/462);

(n) Letter dated 4 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77 and China adopted at the twentieth annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held in New York on 27 September 1996 (A/51/471);

(o) Letter dated 30 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, held in New York on 25 September 1996 (A/51/473-S/1996/839);

(p) Letter dated 18 October 1996 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan and Kazakstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a joint statement on Caspian Sea questions adopted at Baku on 16 September 1996 (A/51/529);

(q) Letter dated 28 October 1996 from the Permanent Representatives of Hungary, Italy and Slovenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a joint declaration by their Foreign Ministers issued at Rome on 23 october 1996 (A/51/649);

(r) Letter dated 5 November 1996 from the representatives of Azerbaijan, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Tashkent Declaration, signed at the end of the fourth summit meeting of the Heads of State of the Turkish-Speaking Countries (A/51/664);

Item 96 (a). Implementation and follow-up to major consensus agreements on development

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of the Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (A/51/270);

(b) Note verbale dated 11 July 1996 from the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Sofia Declaration on Good-Neighbourly Relations, Stability, Security and Cooperation in the Balkans, adopted at the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Countries of South-Eastern Europe, held at Sofia, on 6 and 7 July 1996 (A/51/211-S/1996/551);

Item 96 (b). Agenda for development

(i) Agenda for development

(a) Note by the Secretary-General on the provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/227 addressed to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on an Agenda for Development (A/51/319);

(b) Letter dated 15 May 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the summary of proceedings of the Tokyo Conference on Development Strategy, held on 21 and 22 March 1996 (A/51/168 and Corr.1);

(ii) Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership

Note by the Secretary-General on renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership (A/51/485);

Item 96 (c). Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on integration of the economies in transition into the world economy (A/51/285);

(b) Note verbale dated 11 July 1996 from the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/211-S/1996/551 (see under item 96 (a));

Item 96 (d). Population and development

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (A/51/350);

(b) Letter dated 27 March 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a communiqué issued by the Regional Conference on Migration, held in Puebla, Mexico, on 13 and 14 March 1996 (A/51/90);

(c) Letter dated 21 May 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué issued by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and heads of delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on the occasion of the Meeting of the Ministerial Committee on Methodology, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 15 and 16 May 1996 (A/51/154);

(d) Note verbale dated 11 July 1996 from the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/211-S/1996/551 (see under item 96 (a));

Item 96 (e). Human settlement

(a) Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held at Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 14 June 1996 (A/CONF.165/14);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (A/51/384);

Item 96 (f). Eradication of poverty

Report of the Secretary-General on the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and the proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (A/51/443);

Item 96 (g). Cultural development

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a summary of the report of the World Commission on Culture and Development (A/51/451).

4. At the 17th meeting, on 28 October, introductory statements were made by the Chief of the Policy Coordination and Inter-agency Affairs Branch of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (under the item as a whole), the Officer-in-Charge of the Macroeconomic and Social Policy Division of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis (under sub-item 96 (a)) and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe (under sub-item 96 (c)) (see A/C.2/51/SR.17).

5. At the 20th meeting, on 29 October, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) made an introductory statement under sub-item 96 (e) (see A/51/SR.20).

6. At the 22nd meeting, on 30 October, the Assistant Director of the Division of Social Policy and Development of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development made an introductory statement under sub-item 96 (f) (see A/51/SR.22).

7. At the 23rd meeting, on 31 October, the Assistant Director-General for Culture of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization made an introductory statement under sub-item 96 (g) (see A/51/SR.23).

8. At the 26th meeting, on 5 November, the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund made an introductory statement under sub-item 96 (d) (see A/51/SR.26).

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP TO MAJOR CONSENSUS AGREEMENTS ON DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee (Part II)*

Rapporteur: Ms. Silvia Cristina CORADO-CUEVAS (Guatemala)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 96 (see A/51/604, para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 27th and 36th meetings, on 6 and 25 November 1996. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/51/SR.27 and 36).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/51/L.13 and L.32

2. At the 27th meeting, on 6 November, the representative of Costa Rica, on behalf of the States Members that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.13) entitled "Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade", which read:

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/51/604 and addenda.

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"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming the importance and continued validity of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, contained in the annex to its resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990,

"Recalling its resolutions 46/144 of 17 December 1991, 47/152 of 18 December 1992, 48/185 of 21 December 1993 and 49/92 of 19 December 1994 on the implementation of the Declaration and the Strategy,

"Aware that the Declaration, the Strategy and the agenda for development are mutually supportive and closely interlinked in promoting sustained economic growth and sustainable development in the developing countries,

"1. Takes note of the report submitted by the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade;

"2. Recognizes the need to strengthen the implementation of the Declaration and the Strategy in the remaining years of the 1990s to ensure that the decade will indeed be one of accelerated development in the developing countries and strengthened international economic cooperation;

"3. Emphasizes the need to identify those commitments and agreements that are not fully implemented and the constraints to implementation, and recognizes, in this context, the need to address, as a matter of priority, the issues of flow of resources, debt, trade and market access for developing countries, and their effective participation in international economic decision-making;

"4. Recognizes the need to provide particular support to those least developed countries suffering a deteriorating economic situation;

"5. Encourages Member States that have not yet submitted their reports on the implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration and the Strategy to do so;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a progress report on the implementation of the Declaration and the Strategy, with particular emphasis on the relationship of the Declaration and the Strategy and their impact on development trends, and emerging experiences with and consensus on development strategies;

"7. Calls for the review and appraisal of the Declaration and the Strategy to be coordinated with the follow-up work of the major United Nations conferences as well as the agenda for development."

3. At the 36th meeting, on 25 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Mohammad Reza Hadji Karim Djabbary (Islamic Republic of Iran), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.32), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.13.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.32 (see para. 7).

5. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement (see A/C.2/51/SR.36).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.32, draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.13 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance and continued validity of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, contained in the annex to its resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990,

Recalling its resolutions 46/144 of 17 December 1991, 47/152 of 18 December 1992, 48/185 of 21 December 1993 and 49/92 of 19 December 1994 on the implementation of the Declaration and the Strategy,

Aware that the Declaration, the Strategy and the ongoing discussion on an agenda for development are mutually supportive and closely interlinked,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade;[1]

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[1] A/51/270.

2. Recognizes the need to strengthen the implementation of the Declaration and the Strategy in the remaining years of the 1990s so as to ensure that the Decade will indeed be one of accelerated development, in particular in the developing countries, and strengthened international economic cooperation;

3. Calls upon Member States to identify and take follow-up actions on those commitments and agreements that are not fully implemented and on the constraints to implementation;

4. Recognizes the need to provide particular support to those least developed countries suffering from a deteriorating economic situation;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a progress report on the implementation of the Declaration and the Strategy, with particular emphasis on their relationship with and impact on development trends, and on emerging experiences with and consensus on development strategies;

6. Encourages Member States to provide, as and when available, reports and papers relevant to the implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration and the Strategy in order to assist the Secretary-General in preparing the report called for above;

7. Calls for the review and appraisal of the Declaration and the Strategy to be coordinated with the follow-up work on major United Nations conferences and the ongoing discussion on an agenda for development.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee (Part III)*

Rapporteur: Ms. Silvia Cristina CORADO-CUEVAS (Guatemala)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 96 (see A/51/604, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 34th and 37th meetings, on 12 November and 2 December 1996. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/51/SR.34 and 37).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/51/L.21 and L.52

2. At the 34th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Costa Rica (on behalf of the States Members that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and Colombia (on behalf of the States Members that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries) introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.21) entitled "Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership", which read:

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/51/604 and addenda.

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974,

"Reaffirming its resolutions 48/165 of 21 December 1993, 49/95 of 19 December 1994 and 50/122 of 20 December 1995 on renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership,

"Noting with interest the role of the Secretary-General in encouraging all countries to engage in a constructive dialogue for advancing development and in facilitating their efforts in that regard,

"Taking into account the note by the Secretary-General,

"1. Reaffirms the need to encourage constructive dialogue and partnership based on mutual interests and benefits, genuine interdependence, shared responsibility and the partnership for achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development as well as improving the international economic environment that is conducive to such development;

"2. Also reaffirms the need to place development at the centre of United Nations activities and that the United Nations has a central role to play in promoting international economic cooperation for development and revitalizing international economic cooperation for development through increased partnership among and between countries;

"3. Agrees to defer the holding of the first high-level dialogue for a period of two days to the early part of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly - the date, modalities and focus of the discussion to be decided by the President of the General Assembly through consultation with Member States not later than February 1997 - on the theme of the social and economic impact of globalization and interdependence and their policy implications, and requests the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with Governments, regional commissions, relevant organizations and other development actors, to make initial preparations for such a dialogue;

"4. Reaffirms the importance of the dialogue on economic and development issues between the developed and developing countries, including the dialogue being conducted between the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Group of Seven, as well as the consultations that take place with the participation of the developed countries and the Group of 77;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit further recommendations for enhancing the dialogue, taking into consideration the agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council on coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system and implementation of the results of the major international conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, and the outcome of the ongoing discussions in the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on an Agenda for Development;

"6. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session for its consideration, recommendations on possible future themes for dialogue, including the issues of globalization, regional integration and new information technology;

"7. Further requests the Secretary-General to elaborate his proposals to convene special sessions of the General Assembly, on major issues relevant to the dialogue on international economic cooperation for development, including those identified in an agenda for development;

"8. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

"9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session an item entitled 'Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international cooperation for development through partnership'."

3. At the 37th meeting, on 2 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Kheireddine Ramoul (Algeria), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.52), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.21.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.52 (see para. 7).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.52, draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.21 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Document relating to an agenda for development

6. At the 37th meeting, on 2 December, upon the proposal of the Chairman the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the note by the Secretary-General on the provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/227 addressed to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on an Agenda for Development (A/51/319) (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership

The General Assembly,

Noting with interest the efforts of the Secretary-General to encourage constructive dialogue for enhancing development and to facilitate actions in that regard,

Taking into consideration the note by the Secretary-General,[1]

1. Reaffirms its resolutions 48/165 of 21 December 1993, 49/95 of 19 December 1994 and 50/122 of 19 December 1995 on renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership;

2. Reaffirms the importance of the dialogue on economic and development issues between the developed and the developing countries;

3. Agrees to defer the holding of the high-level dialogue for a period of two days until the fifty-second session of the General Assembly - the date, modalities and focus of the discussion to be decided by the President of the General Assembly through consultation with Member States, bearing in mind General Assembly decision 50/490 of 16 September 1996 and taking into account the progress and results achieved in the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on an Agenda for Development, on the theme of the social and economic impact of globalization and interdependence and their policy implications - and requests the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with Governments, all relevant parts of the United Nations system, relevant organizations and other development actors, to make initial preparations for such a dialogue;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including further recommendations for enhancing the dialogue and an assessment of the ongoing efforts for its strengthening, such as the outcome of the discussions in the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group, possible future themes for dialogue, and proposals to convene special sessions of the General Assembly on major issues relevant to the dialogue on international economic cooperation for development, including those identified in the agenda for development;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session, under the appropriate item, a sub-item entitled "Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership".

8. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Document relating to an agenda for development

The General Assembly decides to take note of the note by the Secretary-General on the provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/227 addressed to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on an Agenda for Development.[2]

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[1] A/51/485.

[2] A/51/319.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: INTEGRATION OF THE ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION INTO THE WORLD ECONOMY

Report of the Second Committee (Part IV)*

Rapporteur: Ms. Silvia Cristina CORADO-CUEVAS (Guatemala)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 96 (see A/51/604, para. 2). Action on sub-item (c) was taken at the 32nd and 37th meetings, on 11 November and 2 December 1996. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/51/SR.32 and 37).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.2/51/L.17

2. At the 32nd meeting, on 11 November, the representative of the Russian Federation, on behalf of Albania, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uzbekistan, subsequently joined by Argentina and Israel, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy" (A/C.2/51/L.17).

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* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/51/604 and addenda.

3. At the 37th meeting, on 2 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Mohammad Reza Hadji Karim Djabbary (Islamic Republic of Iran), informed the Committee of the following revisions to the draft resolution agreed upon on the basis of informal consultations:

(a) At the end of the last preambular paragraph, the words "in accordance with multilateral trading agreements" were added;

(b) In operative paragraph 2, after the words "provide policy advice and technical assistance", the words "within existing resources" were deleted.

4. The Committee was informed that there were no programme budget implications for the draft resolution, as orally revised.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.17, as orally revised (see para. 7).

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Brazil and the Russian Federation (see A/C.2/51/SR.37).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 47/187 of 22 December 1992, 48/181 of 21 December 1993 and 49/106 of 19 December 1994,

Reaffirming also the need for the full integration of the countries with economies in transition into the world economy,

Noting the progress made in these countries in achieving macroeconomic stabilization in the course of structural reforms, which require more active investment policies,

Noting also the aspiration of the countries with economies in transition towards the further development of regional and interregional cooperation,

Recognizing the need for ensuring favourable conditions for market access of exports from these countries, in accordance with multilateral trading agreements,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the integration of the economies in transition into the world economy;[1]

2. Welcomes the measures undertaken by the organizations of the United Nations system to implement General Assembly resolution 49/106 on the integration of the economies in transition into the world economy, and calls upon those organizations to continue to conduct analytical activities and to provide policy advice and technical assistance to the economies in transition on the social and political framework for economic and market reforms, in particular in regard to the development of the necessary conditions for attracting foreign investments;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

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[1] A/51/285.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee (Part V)*

Rapporteur: Ms. Silvia Cristina CORADO-CUEVAS (Guatemala)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 96 (see A/51/604, para. 2). Action on sub-item (d) was taken at the 34th and 37th meetings, on 12 November and 2 December 1996. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/51/SR.34 and 37).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/51/L.19 AND L.43

2. At the 34th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Costa Rica (on behalf of the States Members that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and Colombia (on behalf of the States Members that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries) introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.19) entitled "Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development", which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 49/128 of 19 December 1994 and 50/124 of 20 December 1995,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/51/604 and addenda.

"Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/2 of 17 July 1996 on follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development,

"Acknowledging fully the integrated approach taken during the International Conference on Population and Development, which recognizes the interrelationship between population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/124,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/124;

"2. Notes the actions taken so far by Governments and the international community to implement the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, encourages them to strengthen their efforts in that regard and requests them to fully implement all chapters of the Programme of Action;

"3. Reiterates that Governments should continue to commit themselves at the highest political level to achieving the relevant goals and objectives and to take a lead role in coordinating the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the follow-up actions at the national level;

"4. Urges all countries to consider, among other things, their current spending, with a view to making additional contributions in line with national priorities for the implementation of the Programme of Action, taking into account the provisions of chapters XIII and XIV thereof and the economic constraints faced by developing countries, in particular the least developed among them;

"5. Emphasizes that international cooperation in the field of population and development is essential for the full implementation of the recommendations adopted at the Conference; and in this context, calls upon the international community to continue to provide, both bilaterally and multilaterally, adequate and substantial support and assistance for population and development activities in all developing countries and regions, including through the United Nations Population Fund and other organs and organizations of the United Nations system, including the specialized agencies, that will be involved in the implementation, at all levels, of the Programme of Action;

"6. Reiterates the importance of South-South cooperation for the successful implementation of the Programme of Action, and invites all Governments, relevant United Nations organizations, including specialized agencies, the business community, the private sector and non-governmental organizations, to continue to support those activities in South-South cooperation being undertaken by the developing countries;

"7. Emphasizes the importance of the identification and allocation of financial resources by all members of the international community, including regional financial institutions, to enable them to fulfil their commitments with regard to the implementation of the Programme of Action;

"8. Reiterates that the Commission on Population and Development, as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, has the primary responsibility for the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development and review of the implementation of the Programme of Action;

"9. Decides that the Task Force on Basic Social Services for All of the Administrative Committee on Coordination shall inform the Commission and the Economic and Social Council of the progress of its work, for the purpose of system-wide coordination;

"10. Requests the Task Force to coordinate the development of appropriate indicators, taking into account relevant research, so that progress in addressing reproductive health needs by individual countries can be assessed on a reliable basis;

"11. Decides that its special session, to be convened from 23 to 27 June 1997 for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, should give due attention to the issue of population in the context of sustainable development;

"12. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

"13. Decides to include in the agenda of its fifty-second session, within existing clusters, the item entitled 'Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development'."

3. At the 37th meeting, on 2 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Mohammad Reza Hadji Karim Djabbary (Islamic Republic of Iran), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.43), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.19.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.43 (see para. 7).

5. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement (see A/C.2/51/SR.37).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.43, draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.19 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/128 of 19 December 1994 and 50/124 of 20 December 1995,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/2 of 17 July 1996 on the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development,

Acknowledging fully the integrated approach taken during the International Conference on Population and Development, which recognizes the interrelationship between population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/124,[1]

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/124;

2. Notes the action taken so far by Governments and the international community to implement the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[2] and encourages them to strengthen their efforts in that regard;

3. Reiterates that Governments should continue to commit themselves at the highest political level to achieving goals and objectives and to take a lead role in coordinating the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the follow-up actions at the national level;

4. Urges all countries to consider, among other things, their current spending priorities, with a view to making additional contributions in line with national priorities for the implementation of the Programme of Action, taking into account the provisions of chapters XIII and XIV thereof and the economic constraints faced by developing countries, in particular the least developed among them;

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[1] A/51/350.

[2] Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

5. Emphasizes that international cooperation in the field of population and development is essential for the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the Conference and, in this context, calls upon the international community to continue to provide, both bilaterally and multilaterally, adequate and substantial support and assistance for population and development activities, including through the United Nations Population Fund, other organs and organizations of the United Nations system and the specialized agencies that will be involved in the implementation, at all levels, of the Programme of Action;

6. Reiterates the importance of South-South cooperation for the successful implementation of the Programme of Action, and invites all Governments, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, as well as the private sector and non-governmental organizations, to continue to support those activities in South-South cooperation being undertaken by the developing countries;

7. Recognizes the efforts of Partners in Population and Development in strengthening the capacities of developing countries in South-South cooperation;

8. Emphasizes the importance of the identification and allocation of financial resources by all members of the international community, including regional financial institutions, to enable them to fulfil their commitments with regard to the implementation of the Programme of Action;

9. Requests the Economic and Social Council to continue to give guidance on matters concerning harmonization, cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system regarding the implementation of the Programme of Action;

10. Reiterates that the Commission on Population and Development, as a functional commission assisting the Economic and Social Council, has the primary responsibility for monitoring, reviewing and assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action, and emphasizes the need for the Commission to continue its work in broadening its focus so as to fully reflect the Programme of Action;

11. Invites the Secretary-General to ensure that the Task Force on Basic Social Services for All of the Administrative Committee on Coordination informs the Commission and the Economic and Social Council on the progress of its work, with an emphasis on the improvement of the impact of programme delivery for the purpose of system-wide coordination, and stresses the need for close cooperation and timely reporting by all the working groups of the Task Force;

12. Emphasizes the importance of the ongoing efforts of the Task Force to develop, on an urgent basis, appropriate indicators as reliable means for monitoring the progress of the implementation of the Programme of Action, with special attention to the reproductive health needs of individual countries, taking into account relevant research and development work as well as existing data collection systems in developing countries, and to make this information available as it is developed to the Commission on Population and Development, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

13. Endorses the continuation of coordination and collaboration between the Task Force and the appropriate United Nations entities responsible for the development of statistics;

14. Reaffirms that the follow-up to the Conference, at all levels, should take fully into account that population, health, education, poverty, patterns of production and consumption, empowerment of women and the environment are closely interconnected and should be considered through an integrated approach;

15. Recommends that the special session for the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, which will be convened from 23 to 27 June 1997, should give due attention to the issue of population in the context of sustainable development;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

17. Decides to include in the agenda of its fifty-second session, the sub-item entitled "Population and development".

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Report of the Second Committee (Part VI)*

Rapporteur: Ms. Silvia Cristina CORADO-CUEVAS (Guatemala)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 96 (see A/51/604, para. 2). Action on sub-item (e) was taken at the 30th and 37th meetings, on 7 November and 2 December 1996. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/51/SR.30 and 37).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/51/L.15 AND L.15/Rev.1

2. At the 30th meeting, on 7 November, the representative of Costa Rica (on behalf of the States Members that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and Colombia (on behalf of the States Members that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries) introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.15) entitled "Implementation of the decisions adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)", which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 47/180 of 22 December 1992, 49/109 of 19 December 1994 and 50/100 of 20 December 1995 on the convening of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/51/604 and addenda.

"Recognizing the important role of cities and urban areas in economic, political, social and cultural development, and stressing the need to address urgently and comprehensively the deteriorating conditions in rural and urban areas, particularly in developing countries,

"Also recognizing the critical problems common to human settlements in the developing countries, including poverty, unemployment, social disintegration, inadequate shelter and lack of proper maintenance of urban and rural infrastructure and services,

"Cognizant of the importance of maintaining the momentum already generated at the national, regional and international levels for the implementation of measures designed to alleviate the deteriorating living conditions of increasing populations in both urban and rural settlements worldwide,

"Having considered the report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of and follow-up to the Conference, including the role played by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements,

"1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

"2. Endorses the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the Habitat Agenda adopted by the Conference on 14 June 1996;

"3. Expresses its profound gratitude to the Government and people of Turkey for their generous support and for the excellent facilities, staff and services placed at the disposal of the Conference and hospitality extended to the participants;

"4. Acknowledges with appreciation the contribution to the successful organization and effective servicing of the Conference made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Conference and their dedicated staff;

"5. Also acknowledges with appreciation that the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) provided a major opportunity to synthesize the actions and commitments of previous United Nations conferences and summits;

"6. Takes note of the active involvement in the Conference of all States and other relevant actors, and recognizes with satisfaction the innovative mechanisms introduced by the Conference to forge partnerships among various actors;

"7. Calls upon all Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and other actors concerned with human settlements and urban management issues, such as local authorities, relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians, the private sector, trade unions, academicians and other community groups, to implement, fully

and effectively, the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the Habitat Agenda, and to give both instruments the widest possible dissemination;

"8. Invites all Governments to further encourage and support all relevant actors of civil society, including the private sector, in the implementation and follow-up of the Habitat Agenda by establishing effective partnerships and by creating an appropriate framework, in accordance with their respective national conditions, to further facilitate and expedite such actors in addressing human settlements issues, particularly servicing, finance mobilization, the provision of adequate shelter and related areas;

"9. Reaffirms that in formulating human settlements policies and strategies, all countries should simultaneously address the needs of both rural and urban areas;

"10. Calls upon all Governments to establish or strengthen, as appropriate, participatory mechanisms for the implementation, assessment, review and follow-up of the Habitat Agenda and national plans of action;

"11. Emphasizes the need for all countries and for the international community to promote an integrated and multidimensional approach for the implementation and follow-up of the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the Habitat Agenda at all levels;

"12. Invites all States to enhance their bilateral, subregional and regional cooperation and to take all other appropriate initiatives to contribute to the review and assessment of the progress made in the implementation of the Declaration and the Habitat Agenda;

"13. Reaffirms that the General Assembly, as the highest organ for policy formulation, the Economic and Social Council, in exercise of its overall coordination mandate in the economic and social fields in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and 50/227 of 24 May 1996, and the Commission on Human Settlements shall together constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism to oversee the coordination of activities for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

"14. Decides that, at its special session to be convened from 23 to 27 June 1997 for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of Agenda 21, the Assembly shall give due attention to the issue of human settlements in the context of sustainable development;

"15. Also decides to review, at its fifty-second session, the effectiveness of the steps taken to implement the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

"16. Further decides to convene a special session of the General Assembly in the year 2001 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human

Settlements (Habitat II), including the identification of obstacles, with a view to considering further actions and initiatives, and to that end requests the Secretary-General to submit to it, at its fifty-fourth session, in 1999, a report containing recommendations for consideration of the format, scope and organizational aspects of such a special session;

"17. Reaffirms that the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with its role under the Charter of the United Nations and its relevant resolutions and decisions, shall oversee system-wide coordination in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and make recommendations in that regard;

"18. Invites the Economic and Social Council to review the follow-up of the Habitat Agenda at its substantive session of 1997 and to consider convening meetings of high-level representatives to promote international dialogue on the critical issues pertaining to adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development, as well as on policies for addressing them through international cooperation;

"19. Also invites the Economic and Social Council to consider dedicating one of its high-level segments before 2001 to human settlements and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, with the active involvement and participation of, inter alia, the specialized agencies, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund;

"20. Requests the Economic and Social Council to review the mandate of the Commission on Human Settlements, in accordance with Assembly resolution 50/227, with a view to strengthening it, taking into account the Commission's responsibilities for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, as well as the synergy with other related United Nations bodies, and the modalities for an effective system-wide approach to the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

"21. Also requests the Commission on Human Settlements at its forthcoming session, in 1997, to review both its work programme and that of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements in order to ensure an effective follow-up and implementation of the outcome of the Conference, and to make recommendations thereon to the Economic and Social Council;

"22. Further requests the Commission on Human Settlements to review its working methods at the same session in order to involve the representatives of local authorities and the relevant actors of civil society, particularly the private sector and non-governmental organizations, in its work in the field of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development, taking into account the relevant provisions of Council resolution 1996/31;

"23. Decides that the Commission on Human Settlements, as a standing committee of the Economic and Social Council, will monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at the national, regional and international levels;

*24. Also decides that, starting from 1997, the Commission on Human Settlements shall meet annually to ensure a sustained follow-up and accelerated implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) at the national, regional and international levels;

*25. Further decides that the Commission shall assist the Economic and Social Council in its coordination of reporting on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda by the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and shall draw upon inputs from other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other sources, as appropriate;

*26. Decides that the Commission on Human Settlements, in developing its work programme, shall examine the Habitat Agenda and consider how to integrate in its programme of work the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), and shall also consider how it could further develop its catalytic role in promoting adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development;

*27. Reaffirms that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements shall be the lead agency and focal point within the United Nations system for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

*28. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations, before the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, to undertake an assessment of the Centre's functions with a view to its revitalization, and to provide it with adequate human and financial resources within the regular budget of the United Nations so as to enable it to discharge its functions and responsibilities fully and effectively, as elaborated in the Habitat Agenda;

*29. Also requests the Secretary-General to include the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in the mandates of the Administrative Committee on Coordination with a view to facilitating an integrated and coordinated implementation of the cross-cutting themes of the global conferences;

*30. Further requests the Secretary-General to consult with Governments, the various organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, international financial institutions and the various bilateral aid organizations and agencies with a view to promoting an exchange of information among them on the resource requirements for international assistance in the field of adequate shelter for all and human settlements development;

*31. Acknowledges the importance of the regional and subregional activities undertaken during the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), including the regional strategies, plans and declarations adopted as part of the preparatory process, and invites the regional commissions, other regional and subregional organizations and the regional development banks to examine the results of the Conference within their respective mandates with a view to

identifying the actions to be taken, at the regional and subregional levels, for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

"32. Invites the regional commissions, in cooperation with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, the regional intergovernmental organizations, and the regional and subregional development banks, to consider convening, on a biennial basis, a meeting at a high political level to review progress achieved towards the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at the regional level;

"33. Requests all the relevant United Nations organizations and specialized agencies to identify the specific actions that they will undertake, within their mandates, towards the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, and invites them to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1997, on their specific plans and activities;

"34. Invites the Bretton Woods institutions to be actively involved in the implementation and the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), and to enhance their cooperation with the United Nations system for that purpose;

"35. Stresses that the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda will require an increased commitment of financial resources, both domestically and externally, and in that context calls upon the developed countries to complement the national financial efforts of developing countries on human settlements development and urban management, and intensify their efforts to transfer new and additional resources to the developing countries within the framework of paragraphs 203 and 204 of the Habitat Agenda in order to ensure the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

"36. Emphasizes the importance of ensuring the early identification and allocation of financial resources by all members of the international community, including United Nations funds and programmes, the Bretton Woods institutions and regional financial institutions, so as to enable them to fulfil their commitments with regard to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

"37. Appeals to all Governments, especially the Governments of developed countries and others in a position to do so, as well as international and regional financial institutions, to contribute generously to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in order to support the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

"38. Calls upon the organizations, programmes and funds of the United Nations system and the regional commissions to provide their full and active support to the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, particularly at the field level, and invites the relevant specialized agencies to do the same;

"39. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution;

"40. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of subsequent sessions of the General Assembly a standing item entitled 'Implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)'."

3. At the 37th meeting, on 2 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Mohammad Reza Hadji Karim Djabbary (Islamic Republic of Iran), informed the Committee of the results of the informal consultations held on the draft resolution and drew its attention to a revised draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/51/L.15/Rev.1, entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). Turkey subsequently joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

4. The Committee was informed that there were no programme budget implications for the revised draft resolution.

5. The representative of the United States of America proposed an amendment to the revised draft resolution, by which, in operative paragraph 19, the words "from within existing resources" would be deleted after the words "a comprehensive and in-depth assessment".

6. Before the adoption of the revised draft resolution, the representative of South Africa made a statement (see A/C.2/51/SR.37).

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted revised draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.15/Rev.1, as orally amended (see para. 9).

8. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Norway made a statement (see A/C.2/51/SR.37).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the outcome of the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/180 of 22 December 1992, 49/109 of 19 December 1994 and 50/100 of 20 December 1995 on the convening of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

Recognizing the important role of cities and urban areas in economic, political, social and cultural development, and stressing the need to address

urgently and comprehensively the deteriorating conditions of shelter and human settlements in rural and urban areas,

Also recognizing the critical problems common to human settlements in the developing countries, including poverty, unemployment, social disintegration, inadequate shelter and lack of proper maintenance of urban and rural infrastructure and services,

Cognizant of the importance of maintaining the momentum already generated at the national, regional and international levels for the implementation of measures designed to alleviate the deteriorating living conditions of increasing populations in both urban and rural settlements,

Recognizing the interdependence of rural and urban development,

Having considered the report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)[1] and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of and follow-up to the Conference, including the role played by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements,[2]

Expressing its profound gratitude to the Government and people of Turkey for their support and for the facilities, staff and services placed at the disposal of the Conference and the hospitality extended to the participants,

Also expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the Conference and the staff of the Secretariat for the effective preparations and services provided for the Conference,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);[1]

2. Endorses the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements[3] and the Habitat Agenda[4] adopted by the Conference on 14 June 1996;

3. Acknowledges with appreciation that the Conference provided a major opportunity to build upon the actions and commitments of previous United Nations conferences and summits;

4. Recognizes with satisfaction the active involvement in the Conference of all States and other relevant actors, and the innovative arrangements introduced at the Conference to forge partnerships among various actors;

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[1] A/CONF.165/14.

[2] A/51/384.

[3] A/CONF.165/14, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[4] Ibid., annex II.

5. Reaffirms the commitment to the full and progressive realization of the right to adequate housing, as provided for in international instruments, and in that context recognizes an obligation by Governments to enable people to obtain shelter and to protect and improve dwellings and neighbourhoods;

6. Recognizes that Governments have the primary responsibility for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, and further recognizes that the international community should support Governments in their efforts, by promoting international cooperation for, inter alia, the establishment of an open, equitable, cooperative and mutually beneficial international economic environment;

7. Calls upon all Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and other actors concerned with human settlements and urban management issues, such as local authorities, relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians, the private sector, trade unions, academicians and other community groups, to implement, fully and effectively, the Habitat Agenda, and to give both the Habitat Agenda and the Istanbul Declaration the widest possible dissemination, and in that context, to draw attention to the best practices initiative;

8. Invites all Governments to further encourage and support all relevant actors of civil society, including the private sector, in the implementation and follow-up of the Habitat Agenda by establishing effective partnerships and by creating an appropriate framework, in accordance with their respective national conditions, to further facilitate and expedite such actors in addressing human settlements issues, particularly servicing, finance mobilization, the provision of adequate shelter and related areas, and in that process to emphasize the need to integrate the gender perspective;

9. Reaffirms that in formulating human settlements policies and strategies, all countries should recognize the interdependence of rural and urban areas and address the needs of both in a balanced manner;

10. Calls upon all Governments to establish or strengthen, as appropriate, participatory mechanisms for the implementation, assessment, review and follow-up of the Habitat Agenda and national plans of action;

11. Emphasizes the need for all countries and for the international community to promote at all levels an integrated and multidimensional approach to the implementation and follow-up of the Habitat Agenda;

12. Reaffirms that all States should exert concerted efforts to achieve the implementation of the Habitat Agenda through bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation, as well as through the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and that States may also convene bilateral, subregional and regional meetings and take other appropriate initiatives to contribute to the review and assessment of the progress made in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

13. Also reaffirms that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United

Nations and relevant resolutions, including Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and 50/227 of 24 May 1996, and together with the Commission on Human Settlements, shall constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism to oversee the coordination of activities for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

14. Recommends that, at its special session to be convened from 23 to 27 June 1997 for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of Agenda 21, the Assembly give due attention to the issue of human settlements in the context of sustainable development;

15. Reaffirms that the General Assembly should consider holding a special session in the year 2001 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), including the identification of obstacles, considering further actions and initiatives, and that a decision on this matter should be taken at its fifty-second session;

16. Reaffirms that the Economic and Social Council may convene meetings of high-level representatives to promote international dialogue on the critical issues pertaining to adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development, as well as on policies for addressing them through international cooperation, and in this context, the Council may consider dedicating one high-level segment before the year 2001 to human settlements and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, with the active involvement and participation of, inter alia, the specialized agencies, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund;

17. Emphasizes that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with their respective mandates, should review and strengthen the mandate of the Commission on Human Settlements, taking into account the Habitat Agenda, as well as the need for synergy with related commissions and conference follow-ups and for a system-wide approach to its implementation;

18. Requests the Commission on Human Settlements at its forthcoming session, in 1997, to review its programme of work in order to ensure an effective follow-up and implementation of the outcome of the Conference, in a manner consistent with the functions and contributions of other relevant organs of the United Nations system, and make recommendations thereon to the Economic and Social Council within the framework of the review of the activities of its subsidiary bodies;

19. Invites the Secretary-General to undertake in the light of the review of the mandate of the Commission on Human Settlements, a comprehensive and in-depth assessment of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements with a view to its revitalization, to present terms of reference and a preliminary report on this assessment for the consideration of the Commission at its sixteenth session, and to make a final report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

20. Requests the Secretary-General, in accordance with paragraph 229 of the Habitat Agenda and in consultation with the Commission on Human Settlements, to ensure more effective functioning of the Centre by, inter alia, providing sufficient human and financial resources within the regular budget of the United Nations;

21. Requests the Commission on Human Settlements to review at its sixteenth session, its working methods in order to involve in its work the representatives of local authorities or international associations of local authorities, as appropriate, and the relevant actors of civil society, particularly the private sector and non-governmental organizations, in the field of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development, taking into account the rules of procedure of the Commission on Human Settlements and the relevant provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996;

22. Decides that the Commission on Human Settlements, as a standing committee of the Economic and Social Council, should have a central role in monitoring, within the United Nations system, the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and advising the Council thereon;

23. Recommends that the Economic and Social Council, in the context of the overall review process of its subsidiary bodies, and within the context of the follow-up to General Assembly resolution 50/227, should review the periodicity of the meetings of the Commission on Human Settlements, taking into account the need for full and effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

24. Reaffirms that the Commission on Human Settlements, in developing its work programme, should examine the Habitat Agenda and consider how to integrate in its programme of work the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), and should consider how it could further develop its catalytic role in promoting adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development;

25. Reaffirms also that the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements shall be designated as a focal point for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

26. Requests the Secretary-General to include the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in the mandates of the existing inter-agency task forces of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to facilitating an integrated and coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

27. Acknowledges the importance of the regional and subregional activities undertaken during the preparations for the Conference, including the regional strategies, plans and declarations adopted as part of the preparatory process, and invites the regional commissions, other regional and subregional organizations and the regional development banks, to examine the results of the Conference within their respective mandates with a view to identifying the actions to be taken at the regional and subregional levels for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

28. Emphasizes that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council should, where appropriate, promote subregional and regional cooperation in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, that the regional commissions, within their mandates and in cooperation with regional intergovernmental organizations and banks, could consider convening high-level meetings to review progress made in implementing the outcome of Habitat II, exchange views on their respective experiences, particularly on best practices, and adopt appropriate measures, that such meetings could involve, as appropriate, the participation of the principal financial and technical institutions, and that the regional commissions should report to the Council on the outcome of such meetings;

29. Requests all the relevant United Nations organizations and specialized agencies to identify the specific actions that they will undertake, within their mandates, towards the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, and in that context invites them to inform the Administrative Committee on Coordination of their actions and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1997, on their specific plans and activities;

30. Invites the Bretton Woods institutions to be actively involved in the implementation and the follow-up to the Conference, and to enhance their cooperation with the United Nations system for that purpose;

31. Reaffirms that the demand for shelter and infrastructural services in human settlements is continuously increasing and that communities and countries, especially developing countries, have difficulty in mobilizing adequate financial resources to meet the rapidly rising costs of shelter, services and physical infrastructure, and reaffirms further that new and additional financial resources from various sources are necessary to achieve the goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world, and that existing resources available to developing countries - public, private, multilateral, bilateral, domestic and external - need to be enhanced through appropriate and flexible mechanisms and economic instruments to support adequate shelter and sustainable human settlements development;

32. Stresses that the full and effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, in particular in all developing countries, especially those in Africa and the least developed countries, will require the mobilization of additional financial resources from various sources at the national and international levels and more effective development cooperation in order to promote assistance for shelter and human settlements activities;

33. Invites all Governments and the international community to consider the role of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in the follow-up of the Habitat Agenda and to consider the scope for providing further support for the Foundation in its activities, taking into account the need to continue to improve its effectiveness;

34. Requests the programmes and funds of the United Nations system and the regional commissions, consistent with their respective mandates, to fully support the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, particularly at the field level, as appropriate;

35. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution;

36. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session a sub-item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)".

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: ERADICATION OF POVERTY

Report of the Second Committee (Part VII)*

Rapporteur: Ms. Silvia Cristina CORADO-CUEVAS (Guatemala)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 96 (see A/51/604, para. 2). Action on sub-item (f) was taken at the 32nd and 37th meetings, on 11 November and 2 December 1996. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/51/SR.32 and 37).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/51/L.18 AND L.51

2. At the 32nd meeting, on 11 November, the representative of Costa Rica, on behalf of the States Members that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.18) entitled "First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty", which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 48/183 of 21 December 1993, 49/110 of 19 December 1994 and 50/107 of 20 December 1995 related to the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, and all

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/51/604 and addenda.

other relevant resolutions relating to international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries,

"Recognizing that the international community, at the highest political level, has already reached a consensus on and committed itself to the eradication of poverty through declarations and programmes of action of the United Nations major conferences and summits organized since 1990, particularly the World Summit for Social Development,

"Expressing serious concern that more than 1.3 billion people in the world live in absolute poverty, especially in developing countries, and that the number of such people continues to increase every year,

"Welcoming the formulation of direct programmes of poverty eradication by some developing countries at the national level,

"Noting the activities carried out by countries and organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as by organizations, associations, institutions and entities of civil society, within the framework of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty,

"Noting also the action to be taken within the framework of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006),

"Recognizing that the mid-term review and appraisal of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development[1] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[2] to be conducted in the year 2000, will contribute to enhancing, at the international and national levels, action for the eradication of poverty in the world,

"Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty[3] and on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development,[4]

"Taking note of the agreed conclusions on coordination of the United Nations system activities for poverty eradication, adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1996,[5] as well as of the

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[1] Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (A/CONF.166/9), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] A/51/443.

[4] A/51/348.

[5] A/51/3 (Part I), chap. III, para. 2.

outcome of the sessions of relevant functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council in 1996,

"1. Expresses its solidarity with people living in poverty in all countries and regions that are suffering severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education, employment, credit, income and information;

"2. Decides that the theme for the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty shall be 'Eradicating poverty is an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of humankind', and decides to adopt the logo for the Decade as proposed in the report of the Secretary-General;[6]

"3. Decides also that within the context of overall action for the eradication of poverty, special focus should be given to issues that reflect the multidimensional nature of poverty, such as environment, food security, population and migration, health, shelter, human resources development, fresh water, including clean water and sanitation, rural development, productive employment, the situation of vulnerable groups and social integration and therefore decides that the themes for 1997 and 1998 shall be 'Poverty and environment' and 'Poverty and food security', respectively; the themes for the remaining years of the Decade will be decided every two years commencing, in 1998, at the fifty-third session of the General Assembly;

"4. Decides further that the objective of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty is to achieve the goal of eradicating poverty in the world, through decisive national actions and international cooperation in implementing fully and effectively all agreements, commitments and recommendations of United Nations major conferences and summits organized since 1990, particularly those related to poverty eradication;

"5. Stresses that international cooperation and assistance are essential to supporting the efforts of developing countries, particularly African countries and least developed countries, to meet the goal of eradicating poverty and stresses at the same time, that, at the request of Governments, the United Nations system should provide technical assistance in further developing and sustaining national capacity to gather and analyse information and to develop indicators for poverty analysis;

"6. Stresses also that the United Nations system should promote gender analysis in the integration of gender concerns into the planning and implementation of policies, strategies, and programmes on poverty eradication;

"7. Stresses further that during the Decade and beyond, people living in poverty and their organizations should be empowered by being fully

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[6] A/51/443, para. 53 (a) and (b).

involved in the setting of targets and in the design, implementation, monitoring and assessment of national strategies, activities and programmes for poverty eradication and the development of community bases, ensuring that such programmes reflect their priorities;

"8. Invites donor countries and multilateral financial institutions to give high priority to the eradication of poverty in their assistance budgets and programmes, on either a bilateral or multilateral basis, and also invites the relevant funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system to support developing countries, particularly African countries and least developed countries, in their efforts to achieve the overall goal of eradicating poverty and ensuring basic social services, through, inter alia, the elaboration and implementation of anti-poverty programmes;

"9. Encourages developing countries, particularly African countries and least developed countries, to mobilize domestic and external resources for poverty eradication activities and programmes and to facilitate their full and effective implementation;

"10. Recognizes the need to increase the share of funding for social development programmes commensurate with the scope and scale of activities required to achieve the objectives and goals set out in commitment 2 of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and chapter 2 of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, relating to the eradication of poverty;

"11. Reaffirms, in this context, that developed countries should attain, as soon as possible, the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance and ensure that, within that target, 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product is earmarked for the least developed countries;

"12. Reaffirms also that the international community, including multilateral financial institutions, should take further measures and initiatives to cancel and/or reduce external debt, as well as to facilitate the access of developing countries, particularly African countries and least developed countries, to international markets, in order to enable them to implement fully and effectively their national anti-poverty activities and programmes;

"13. Urges the international community to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to poverty eradication programmes in developing countries, particularly African countries and least developed countries, with a view to reducing the ever-widening gap between developed and developing countries;

"14. Calls upon all States, particularly donor countries, to contribute substantially to the Trust Fund for the Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, which includes in its activities support for

activities related to the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty;

"15. Invites the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to extend, as part of the contribution of the Programme to the Decade, the effort launched in 1996 with the Poverty Strategies Initiative, in order to strengthen technical and financial assistance in the elaboration or formulation of direct programmes to eradicate poverty in developing countries, particularly African countries and least developed countries;

"16. Welcomes the initiative to convene the non-governmental Micro-Credit Summit in Washington, D.C., from 2 to 4 February 1997, and the support given by the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme thereto, with a view to ensuring that one hundred million families, especially the women of those families, around the world, particularly in African countries and least developed countries, will receive credit for self-employment and other financial services by the year 2005 and, in this context, calls upon all Governments, the United Nations system and the relevant actors of civil society to participate in the Summit, so as to ensure the successful outcome of the initiative;

"17. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Secretariat entity entrusted with the task of the system-wide promotion, implementation and follow-up of activities and programmes of the Decade with adequate human and financial resources within the regular budget of the United Nations to enable it to discharge fully and effectively its functions and responsibilities;

"18. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the reports to be prepared for the 1997 special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 give due attention to the issue of poverty eradication;

"19. Further requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the overall assessment of the implementation of the programme for the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, including the amount of resources earmarked by funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and to report on the implementation of the present resolution - that report to include a section on the negative effects of unilateral actions on the situation of people living in poverty and programmes for their well-being, in targeted developing countries;

"20. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session an item entitled 'First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)'."

3. At the 37th meeting, on 2 December, the Vice-Chairmen of the Committee, Mr. Kheireddine Ramoul (Algeria), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.51),

submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.18.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.51 (see para. 7).

5. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement (see A/C.2/51/SR.37).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.51, draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.18 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/183 of 21 December 1993, 49/110 of 19 December 1994 and 50/107 of 20 December 1995 related to the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, and all other relevant resolutions relating to international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries,

Recognizing that the international community, at the highest political level, has already reached a consensus on and committed itself to the eradication of poverty through declarations and programmes of action of the United Nations major conferences and summits organized since 1990, particularly the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women,

Expressing serious concern that more than 1.3 billion people in the world, a majority of whom are women, live in absolute poverty, especially in developing countries, and that the number of such people continues to increase,

Welcoming the formulation of direct programmes of poverty eradication by some developing countries at the national level,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and proclamation of the

first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty[7] and on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development,[8]

Recognizing that investment in human capital and domestic and international policies supportive of economic and social development are essential prerequisites for the eradication of poverty,

Noting the activities to eradicate poverty carried out by countries and organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and by organizations, associations, institutions and entities of civil society, within the framework of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, and the coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of the major United Nations conferences and summits organized since 1990 in the economic, social and related fields,

Noting also the action to be taken within the framework of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006),

Recalling its resolution 50/161 of 22 December 1995, in which it decided to hold a special session in the year 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development,[9] to consider further actions and initiatives, inter alia, towards the eradication of poverty in the world,

Taking note of the agreed conclusions on coordination of the United Nations system activities for poverty eradication, adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1996,[10] as well as of the outcome of the sessions of relevant functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council in 1996,

1. Expresses its solidarity with people living in poverty in all countries and reaffirms that the satisfaction of basic human needs is an essential element of poverty eradication, those needs being closely interrelated and comprising nutrition, health, water and sanitation, education, employment, housing and participation in cultural and social life;

2. Also expresses its solidarity with those suffering from a lack of control over resources, including land, skills, knowledge, capital and social connections, and calls for particular actions to provide appropriate social services to enable vulnerable people and people living in poverty to improve their lives, to exercise their rights and to participate fully in all social,

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[7] A/51/443.

[8] A/51/348.

[9] See Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (A/CONF.166/9).

[10] A/51/3 (Part I), chap. III, para. 2.

economic and political activities and to contribute to social and economic development;

3. Decides that the theme for the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty shall be "Eradicating poverty is an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of humankind", and decides to adopt the logo for the Decade as proposed in the report of the Secretary-General;[11]

4. Recommends that, within the context of overall action for the eradication of poverty, special attention should be given to the multidimensional nature of poverty and to the national and international framework conditions and policies that are conducive to its eradication, which should aim at the social and economic integration of people living in poverty and the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the right to development;

5. Also recommends that the causes of poverty be addressed in the context of sectoral strategies such as those on environment, food security, population, migration, health, shelter, human resources development, fresh water, including clean water and sanitation, rural development and productive employment, and by addressing the specific needs of vulnerable groups, all of which should aim at the social and economic integration of people living in poverty;

6. Decides that the themes for 1997 and 1998 shall be "Poverty, environment and development" and "Poverty, human rights and development", respectively; the themes for the remaining years of the Decade will be decided every two years, commencing in 1998, at the fifty-third session of the General Assembly;

7. Also decides that the objective of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty is to achieve the goal of eradicating absolute poverty, and reducing overall poverty substantially in the world, through decisive national actions and international cooperation in implementing fully and effectively all agreements, commitments and recommendations of United Nations major conferences and summits organized since 1990 as they relate to poverty eradication;

8. Invites all donors to give high priority to the eradication of poverty in their assistance budgets and programmes, on either a bilateral or multilateral basis, and also invites the relevant funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system to support developing countries, particularly African countries and the least developed countries, in their efforts to achieve the overall goal of eradicating poverty and ensuring basic social services, by supporting national efforts to formulate, coordinate, implement, monitor and assess integrated poverty strategies, including capacity-building, and by supporting efforts to empower people living in poverty;

9. Stresses that international cooperation and assistance are essential to supporting the efforts of developing countries, particularly African

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[11] A/51/443, paras. 53 (a) and (b).

countries and the least developed countries, to meet the goal of eradicating poverty, and stresses at the same time that, at the request of Governments, the United Nations system should provide technical assistance in further developing and sustaining national capacities to gather and analyse information and to develop indicators for poverty analysis;

10. Calls upon all Governments and the United Nations system, in particular the relevant funds, programmes and agencies, to promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective and to use gender analysis as a tool for the integration of a gender dimension into the planning and implementation of policies, strategies and programmes on poverty eradication;

11. Stresses that during the Decade and beyond, people living in poverty and their organizations should be empowered by being fully involved in the setting of targets and in the design, implementation, monitoring and assessment of national strategies, activities and programmes for poverty eradication and the development of community bases, ensuring that such programmes reflect their priorities;

12. Encourages developing countries, particularly African countries and the least developed countries, to mobilize domestic and external resources for poverty eradication activities and programmes and to facilitate their full and effective implementation;

13. Recommends that all Governments formulate or strengthen integrated poverty eradication strategies and policies and implement national poverty eradication plans or programmes, in a participatory manner, to address the structural causes of poverty, encompassing action on the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels, and stresses that those plans or programmes should establish, within each national context, strategies and affordable time-bound goals and targets for the substantial reduction of overall poverty and the eradication of absolute poverty;

14. Recognizes the need to increase the share of funding for social development programmes, in particular, basic social programmes, commensurate with the scope and scale of the activities required to achieve the objectives and goals set out in commitment 2 of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development[12] and chapter 2 of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[13] relating to the eradication of poverty;

15. Reaffirms, in this context, that developed countries should, as soon as possible, strive for the fulfilment of the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance and, where agreed, within that target, earmark 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for the least developed countries;

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[12] Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (A/CONF.166/9), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[13] Ibid., annex II.

16. Also reaffirms the agreement on a mutual commitment between interested developed and developing country partners to allocate, on average, 20 per cent of official development assistance and 20 per cent of the national budget, respectively, to basic social programmes, and notes with interest the consensus reached at Oslo on 25 April 1996 on this matter;

17. Welcomes the recent initiatives of the Bretton Woods institutions, including the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative, and the ongoing process at the international level regarding debt relief, as appropriate, for developing countries, and calls upon the international community, including international financial institutions, to implement fully and effectively all initiatives that will contribute to a durable solution of the debt problems of developing countries, in particular African countries and the least developed countries, and thus support their efforts to eradicate poverty;

18. Reaffirms that the international community, including multilateral financial institutions, should consider further measures to facilitate the access of developing countries, particularly African countries and the least developed countries, to international markets, in order to enable them to implement fully and effectively their national anti-poverty activities and programmes;

19. Urges the international community to reduce, as appropriate, excessive military expenditures on and investments in arms production and acquisition, consistent with national security requirements, in order to increase resources for social and economic development, in particular to poverty eradication programmes in developing countries, particularly African countries and the least developed countries;

20. Calls upon all States, particularly donor countries, to contribute substantially to the Trust Fund for the Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, established under the authority of the Secretary-General, which includes in its activities support for activities related to the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty;

21. Invites the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to continue, as a contribution, inter alia, to the Decade, the effort launched in 1996 with the Poverty Strategies Initiative, in order to strengthen assistance in the elaboration of national plans, programmes and strategies to eradicate poverty in developing countries, particularly African countries and the least developed countries, and calls upon all countries to contribute to the Initiative;

22. Welcomes the agreed conclusions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1996 on the coordination of United Nations system activities for poverty eradication and calls for their full and effective implementation by organizations of the United Nations system;

23. Notes with interest the initiative to convene a micro-credit summit in Washington, D.C., from 2 to 4 February 1997, to focus on the importance of increasing access to micro-credit and related financial services for self-employment and income-generating activities for people living in poverty,

in particular women in developing countries, and calls upon all Governments, the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and the relevant actors of civil society to participate actively in the summit so as to contribute to its successful outcome and to support the development, implementation and management of micro-credit programmes in developing countries;

24. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Secretariat entity entrusted with the task of system-wide promotion and follow-up of activities and programmes of the Decade with adequate human and financial resources within the regular budget of the United Nations to enable it to discharge fully and effectively its functions and responsibilities;

25. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the reports to be prepared for the 1997 special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 give due attention to the issue of poverty eradication;

26. Further requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the overall assessment of the implementation of the programme for the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, taking into account progress being made in the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, including recommendations for possible actions and initiatives in relation to the Decade;

27. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session an item entitled "First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)".

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee (Part VIII)*

Rapporteur: Ms. Silvia Cristina CORADO-CUEVAS (Guatemala)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 96 (see A/51/604, para. 2). Action on sub-item (g) was taken at the 34th and 38th meetings, on 12 November and 2 December 1996. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/51/SR.34 and 38).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/51/L.22 AND L.34

2. At the 34th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Costa Rica, on behalf of the States Members that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.22) entitled "Report of the World Commission on Culture and Development", which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 41/187 of 8 December 1986, in which it proclaimed the period 1988-1997 the World Decade for Cultural Development,

"Recalling also its resolution 46/158 of 19 December 1991, in which it requested the Secretary-General to cooperate with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/51/604 and addenda.

establishing an independent World Commission on Culture and Development, and expected the World Commission to submit its final report to the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and to the United Nations General Assembly no later than three years after it began its work,

"Noting that the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has sent the report of the Commission to the member States of that organization for their comments as well as to many non-governmental and academic bodies,

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to cooperate with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to further stimulate international debate on culture and development;

"2. Encourages the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to discuss the report further, taking into account the views, comments and proposals submitted by Member States, and to include those views, comments and proposals in the report to the next General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in 1997;

"3. Also encourages the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to pursue its ongoing task of promoting throughout the United Nations system a greater awareness of the crucial relationship between culture and development, taking into account cultural, religious and other areas of diversity;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to compile a report taking into account the views, comments and proposals expressed by States and the relevant intergovernmental organizations;

"5. Decides to continue further consideration of the issue of cultural development at its fifty-second session."

3. At the 38th meeting, on 2 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Mohammad Reza Hadji Karim Djabbary (Islamic Republic of Iran), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.34), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.22.

4. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, the representatives of Ireland (on behalf of the States Members that are members of the European Union made a statement (see A/C.2/51/SR.38).

5. The Secretary of the Committee informed the Committee that there were no programme budget implications for draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.34.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.34 (see para. 9).

7. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Costa Rica (on behalf of the States Members that are members of the Group of 77) made a statement (see A/C.2/51/SR.38).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.34, draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.22 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Report of the World Commission on Culture and Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 41/187 of 8 December 1986, in which it proclaimed the period 1988-1997 the World Decade for Cultural Development,

Recalling also its resolution 46/158 of 19 December 1991, in which it requested the Secretary-General to cooperate with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in establishing an independent World Commission on Culture and Development, and expected the World Commission to submit its final report to the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and to the United Nations General Assembly no later than three years after it began its work,

Noting that the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has sent the report of the Commission, entitled Our Creative Diversity,[1] to the member States of that organization for their comments as well as to many non-governmental and academic bodies,

1. Requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to stimulate further international debate on culture and development;

2. Encourages the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-ninth session in 1997 to discuss the report further, taking into account the views, comments and proposals submitted by member States;

3. Also encourages the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to pursue its ongoing task of promoting throughout the United Nations system a greater awareness of the crucial relationship between culture and development, taking into account the diversity of cultures;

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[1] Document A/51/451, annex, contains a summary version of the report.

4. Requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to compile a report on culture and development for the consideration of the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, taking into account the views, comments and proposals put forth by States and the relevant intergovernmental organizations concerning the report of the World Commission on Culture and Development.